

# Does intelligent computing require optical modules



## Overview

In conclusion, AI compute chips do not directly require optical modules. However, in large-scale, high-speed distributed computing environments, optical modules are essential for fully utilizing the computational power of AI chips. In intelligent computing centers built around large-scale GPU clusters, network bandwidth, latency, and reliability directly determine the efficiency of AI training, big data processing, and other tasks. Understanding their role is key to building efficient, scalable AI systems. The Role of Optical Modules

Optical modules are primarily responsible for electrical-to-optical. Nvidia, Broadcom, and Marvell sell optical interface products, with Marvell enjoying a strong lead in 800-gigabit interconnects. LPO (Linear-drive Pluggable Optics), NPO (Near Package Optics), and CPO (Co-Packaged Optics) architectures are becoming core areas of industry focus. Since the rapid growth of ChatGPT by January 2023, the software application developed by OpenAI has won unprecedented attention and favor from users worldwide.

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GPU clusters (e.g., NVIDIA DGX H100) in intelligent computing centers rely on optical modules for seamless switch connectivity, ensuring bottleneck-free data transmission.



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Optical modules reduce power consumption and improve system stability, allowing AI systems to run longer with fewer interruptions. These modules play a key role in data centers, AI ...



**High Reliability** In large-scale AI fabrics comprising tens of thousands of optical links, component failures become statistically inevitable. However, the hard and soft failure rates of today's optical modules ...



The market has seen that AI systems urgently need optical transceivers to provide ultra-faster and higher-bandwidth data transmission between computing servers than ever before.



We review recent advances in optical modules and networks for AI-era data centers (DCs), covering intra-DC optical pluggable transceivers, DC interconnections, optical cross-connect based flexible ...



When AI models scale to a million or more processors, they will require gigawatts of power and have to span more than one physical data center, says Velaga. The opportunity for optical ...



To combat this, AI servers require the deployment of high-speed 800G optical modules, designed to facilitate rapid data transmission and minimize latency, thereby ensuring that AI ...



As AI and HPC data centers evolve towards ultra-large scale and high computing density, optical interconnect technology is gradually moving from pluggable modules to packaged ...



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